Message Text

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UNCLAS ATHENS 3578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPORT ON CYPRUS

REF: A) ATHENS 3473 B) NICOSIA 1037

1. WITH THE RECEIPT OF THE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON CYPRUS AND THE ISSUANCE OF A CLARIFYING STATEMENT BY THE GOC ON ITS POSITION CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL REPORT (REFTEL B), THE ATHENS PRESS YESTERDAY (APRIL 19) SHIFTED ITS GROUND ACCORDINGLY IN REPORTING THE SUBJECT. IN ITS COVERAGE, BASED MAINLY ON STORIES DATELINED NICOSIA, THE MEDIA EMPHASIZED THE "SATISFACTION" OF THE GOC AT THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT. THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT LABELLED THE VIENNA TALKS AS "PROGRESS...AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED PREVIOUSLY" AND THAT THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MAKE AN OFFICIAL "PROTEST" AS HAD INITIALLY BEEN ANTICIPATED WERE OTHER MAIN THEMES IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTING

2. ONLY THE ISSUE YESTERDAY OF TO VIMA CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT. THE TO VIMA EDITORIAL, OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BEFORE THE AUTHOR BECAME AWARE OF THE CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY THE GOC, ATTACKED THE ILLUSIONARY, PRO-AMERICAN FEELING REPORTED BY MR CARTER'S ASCENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE WHICH IT CLAIMED PERVADED IN MANY CIRCLES.

THE CONTENT OF THE CARTER REPORT TO THE CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED, STRESSED THE EDITORIAL, AND THE GOC'S DISAPPOINTMENT WAS A "NATURAL" CONSEQUENCE. GREECE MUST DEPEND ON HERSELF IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IT CONCLUDED, AND NOT ON THE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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